

Claims

- 1 1. A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
3 electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier;
4 affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail; and
5 routing the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated
6 mailing address.
1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of electronically editing the
2 associated mailing address.
1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the routing step comprises routing the piece of
2 hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address.
1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.
1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.
1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the associated
2 mailing address to a machine for routing the piece of hardcopy mail, prior to the
3 routing step.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the associated mailing address is sent in
2 response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value
3 corresponding to the identifier.

1 8. A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
3 electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier;
4 affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail and submitting the piece
5 of hardcopy mail to a machine; and
6 retrieving the mailing address to the machine, wherein the machine can
7 read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the
8 associated mailing address.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the mailing address is a physical postal
2 address.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the machine is a postal machine.

1 13. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of electronically editing
2 the associated mailing address, prior to the sending step.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the sending step comprises sending the
2 edited mailing address to a machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier
3 and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address.

1 15. The method of claim 8, wherein the associated mailing address is sent in
2 response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value
3 corresponding to the identifier.

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1 16. A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a unique identifier for a recipient;
3 electronically associating a mailing address with the identifier;
4 affixing the identifier to a piece of hardcopy mail;
5 electronically editing the associated mailing address; and
6 sending the edited mailing address to a machine, wherein the machine can
7 read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the
8 edited mailing address.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the edited mailing address is sent in
2 response to a request by the machine, and wherein the request includes a value
3 corresponding to the identifier.

- 1 20. A system for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:
- 2 a recipient interface for electronically associating a mailing address with a
- 3 unique identifier for a recipient;
- 4 a sender interface for outputting the identifier to a sender, wherein the
- 5 identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail; and
- 6 a cross-reference system for outputting the associated mailing address to a
- 7 machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of
- 8 hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.
- 1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the mailing address is a physical postal
- 2 address.
- 1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the machine is a postal machine.
- 1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the unique identifier is a machine readable
- 2 code.
- 1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the machine readable code is a bar code.
- 1 25. The system of claim 20, wherein the recipient interface allows the associated
- 2 mailing address to be edited.
- 1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the cross-reference system outputs an edited
- 2 mailing address to the machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and
- 3 route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited address.

1 27. The system of claim 20, wherein the associated mailing address is outputted in
2 response to a request that includes a value corresponding to the identifier.

- 1 28. A system for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:
- 2 a recipient interface for electronically designating a mailing address for a
- 3 recipient;
- 4 a sender interface for outputting a unique identifier corresponding to the
- 5 recipient, wherein the identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail; and
- 6 a cross-reference system for outputting the designated mailing address to a
- 7 machine in response to a request, wherein the machine reads the identifier and
- 8 routes the corresponding piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the designated
- 9 mailing address.
- 1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the request includes a value corresponding to
- 2 the identifier.
- 1 30. The system of claim 28, wherein the address is a physical postal address.
- 1 31. The system of claim 28, wherein the machine is a postal machine.
- 1 32. The system of claim 28, wherein the identifier is a machine readable code.

1 33. A program product stored on a recordable medium for routing hardcopy mail,
2 which when executed, comprises:

3 program code configured to electronically associate a mailing address with
4 a unique identifier for a recipient;

5 program code configured to output the identifier to a sender, wherein the
6 identifier is affixable to a piece of hardcopy mail; and

7 program code configured to output the associated mailing address to a
8 machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of
9 hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address.

1 34. The program product of claim 33, wherein the associated mailing address is
2 outputted in response to a request that includes a value corresponding to the
3 identifier.